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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/001,545	10/31/2001	Christopher J. Chase	2000-0660 CIP	6418
26652	7590	09/08/2005	EXAMINER	
AT&T CORP. P.O. BOX 4110 MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748			MURPHY, RHONDA L	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2667

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/001,545	CHASE ET AL.
	Examiner Rhonda Murphy	Art Unit 2667

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 26-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/17/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McCloghrie et al. (US 6,219,699).

**Regarding claim 26**, McCloghrie teaches an Ethernet protocol network (col. 2, line 48) having at least one switch (Fig. 2; switch 103) with plurality of ingress ports that are each adapted to receive at least one Ethernet frame that includes a tag that identifies a particular network sending the frame (col. 3, lines 10-17, 59-67), and the switch having at least one egress port on which the frame is output (col. 4, lines 34-37), a method for operating said switch, comprising the step of:

mapping the tag in the Ethernet frame received at the one ingress port to a second tag associated with the egress port through which the switch outputs the frame (col. 3, lines 59-67); and

overwriting the tag in the Ethernet frame with the second tag prior to outputting the frame on the egress port (col. 3, lines 59-67; replaced with tags 107 for a second VLAN segment; see Fig. 2).

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**Regarding claim 27**, McCloghrie teaches mapping the tag using a unique tuple of the port and a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) identifier (col. 2, lines 13-17).

**Regarding claims 28 and 29**, McCloghrie teaches VLAN identifiers. It is known in the art that the field for identifying VLANs in an Ethernet network is limited by the IEEE 802.1Q protocol to 12 bits or 4096, unique VLANs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to include a VLAN identifier having a prescribed address space and wherein each egress port can support a quantity of VLANs limited only by the prescribed address space of the VLAN identifier, for the purpose of aggregating traffic and optimizing traffic flow.

**Regarding claim 30**, McCloghrie teaches the same limitations described in the rejection of claim 26. Furthermore, McCloghrie teaches mapping the tag in the Ethernet frame received at the one ingress port to a second tag using a unique tuple of the port and a VLAN identifier (col. 2, lines 13-17; col. 3, lines 59-67).

### ***Conclusion***

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

\* Baum et al. (US 6,771,673) discloses methods and apparatus and data structures for providing access to an edge router of a network.

\* Miki et al. (US 6,771,662) discloses a label switching type of packet forwarding apparatus.

\* Tsukamoto et al. (US 6,498,794) discloses a transmitter with cell switching function.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rhonda Murphy whose telephone number is (571) 272-3185. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (571) 272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rhonda Murphy  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2667

rlm

  
CHI PHAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600 9/5/05